

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method which enables a user to prevent unauthorized
access to files stored on a computer may include several
steps. One step involves maintaining a first database
which identifies files stored on the computer to be
10 included in a safe zone. Another step involves
maintaining a second database which defines authorized
accesses to the files within the safe zone. Yet another
step involves providing the computer with a filter. Upon
a request for access to a file stored on the computer, the
15 filter accesses the first database and determines whether
the file is within the safe zone. If the file is
determined to be within the safe zone, the second database
is accessed to determine whether the request to access the
file has been authorized. If the request is determined to
be unauthorized, access to the file is denied. If the
request is determined to be authorized, access to the file
is granted.